

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 15, 2004. Claims 1-4, 6, and 9-14 remain pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, and 12 are in independent form. Claims 5, 7, and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, and Applicants reserve the right to present those claims in a continuing application. Claim 10 has been amended so that it depends from Claim 6 or 9 only.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9 and 12-14 have been indicated as being allowable in the Office Action. Again, the Examiner is thanked for allowing those claims.

Claims 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,728,435 (Geis et al.).

Claims 8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,986,389 (Tsukamoto).

Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, Claims 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, only claims that are believed to be in condition for allowance remain. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and expedited passage to issue of the present application. If the Examiner believes that additional issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by

telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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